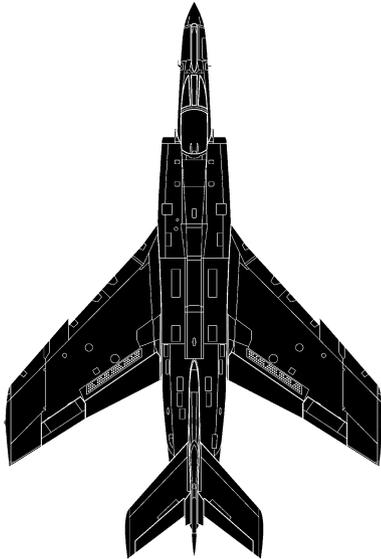


Super Étendard



The Super Étendard is a strike fighter designed for the French naval aviation forces and used in combat by France and several other nations. Though small in size and numbers, the Dassault-designed warplane acquitted itself well in combat over Lebanon, the Falkland Islands, Libya, Serbia, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Originally, plans called for the Dassault Étendard IVM to be replaced by a naval version of the SEPECAT Jaguar. This program was canceled when carrier operation difficulties emerged. Dassault then proposed an upgraded version of the older Étendard—calling it the Super Étendard—which met requirements. Eighty-five aircraft were delivered between 1978 and 1983. The single-seat,

all-metal midwinged Super Étendard is powered by a single nonafterburning SNECMA turbojet engine. It has folding wings and a tail plane which are swept at 45 degrees.

Armament varied, but equipped with the Agave radar, it was particularly well-suited to deliver the French Exocet missile. The combination of speed and modern weapons made the Super Étendard effective. In the Falklands conflict, Argentine pilots, though inexperienced, inflicted severe losses on British naval forces, sinking HMS *Sheffield* and the merchant vessel *Atlantic Conveyor*. The Super Étendard remains in service in France and Argentina.

—Walter J. Boyne

This aircraft: French Naval Aviation Super Étendard as it looked in 1989 when assigned to Flottille 14F at BAN Landivisiau, France.



USN photo by Photographer's Mate Almn. Konstandinos Goumenidis



An Argentine Navy Super Étendard performs a touch-and-go from the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

In Brief

Designed, built by Dassault ★ first flight Oct. 28, 1974 ★ crew of one ★ number built 85 ★ one SNECMA Atar 8K-50 turbojet engine ★ armament, two 30 mm cannons, up to six external rockets and missiles (air-to-air, air-to-surface), free fall conventional bombs, one nuclear bomb ★ max speed 733 mph ★ cruise speed 600 mph ★ max range 1,100 mi ★ weight (loaded) 26,500 lb ★ span 31 ft 6 in ★ length 45 ft 11 in ★ height 12 ft 8 in.

Famous Fliers

Combat: Roberto Agotegaray, Julio Barraza, Augusto Cesar Bedacarratz, Jorge Colombo, Roberto Curilovic, Roland Glavany, Carlos Machetanz, Armando Mayora, Daniel Rastel, Jose Rodriguez, Dominique Sebastien.

Interesting Facts

Used by Iraq Air Force in Iran-Iraq War ★ named “battle flag” or “standard” (English translation of French “étendard”) ★ flown by Argentina’s air force in 1982 Falkland Islands War ★ has performed touch-and-gos on US aircraft carriers ★ flown by French naval air force initially off carriers *Foch* and *Clemenceau* ★ took part (French forces) in Operation Allied Force (1999) and Operation Enduring Freedom (2003).